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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,254	02/22/2002	Bernard F. Garceau	6523-54	9827

21324 7590 04/29/2005

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EXAMINER

GREEN, CHRISTY MARIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3635

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/081,254	Applicant(s) GARCEAU ET AL.	
	Examiner Christy M Green	Art Unit 3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14,21 and 22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15,16,20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17-19 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/2/05</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Exhibit A: attached figure (2A)</u> |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a third office action for serial number 10/081254, entitled Reinforcing Bracket for a Trailer Frame, filed on February 22, 2002.

Response to Amendment

In response to the examiner's office action dated May 18, 2004, the applicant has amended claims 1, 10, 15, 16 and added new claims 22 and 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson, US patent # 4,611,948 in view of Kristiansen, US Patent # 4,014,618.

Johnson discloses the claimed invention a bolt-together trailer frame (figure 2) comprising at least two longitudinal members (12, 13), at least two cross members (30, 14, 32 and 19) attached to the longitudinal members (12, 13) by bolts (22, 39, 46, 50), two a-frame members ("10" or see attached figure 2) wherein angles (attached figure "α") formed between the a-frame members and a cross member (19) are not ninety degrees (see attached figure 2); and, at least one of the a-frame member and the cross member have a flange extending therefrom (interpreted to be 20 – column 3, lines 39-40); a bracket (35) reinforcing the junction between an A-frame member (10) to a cross member (30), the bracket comprises first side (36), a second side (38) extending at an

Art Unit: 3635

angle from the first side (figure 10), a third side (37) extending from an end of the first side (36) and an end of the second side (by 36), wherein the first and second side each having an inner surface (where 36 and 38 point to – figure 10) and an outer surface (see attached figure 10), the third side (37) included at least one aperture (51, 53); at least one of the A-frame member and the cross member have a flange (42) extending therefrom and the third side (37) of the bracket is fastened to the flange (by 36 and 46);

Johnson does not disclose the first side and the second side each include a plurality of projections on the outer surface, and a plurality of dimples each dimple having at least one aperture and a recess in the inner surface therein that corresponds to one of the projections on the outer surface.

Kristiansen teaches that it is known in the art to provide a bracket with a dimple (see attached figures 8 and 9) forming a projection (19) on the outer surface, where the dimple with an aperture (see attached figure 9) and a recess in the inner surface correspond to one of the projections (19). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the dimple forming a projection on the outer surface as taught by Kristiansen with the bracket of Johnson in order to provide an interface fit in the bores of the panels or framing member (column 3, lines 24-26) which ultimately provide a more secure fit with the bracket and framing members.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-14, 21 and 22 are allowed.

Claims 17-19 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christy M Green whose telephone number is 703-308-9693. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on 703-308-0839. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Cg

February 2, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by 'D' and 'F', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600

FIG. 8

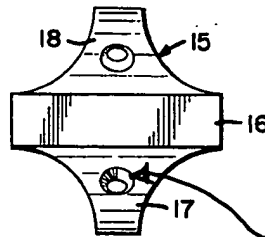


FIG. 9

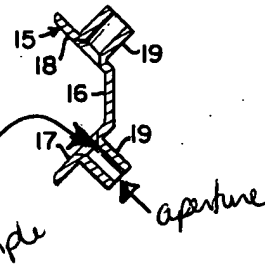


FIG. 10

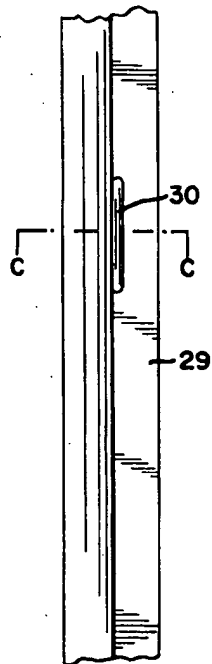


FIG. 12

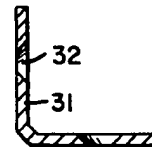


FIG. 13

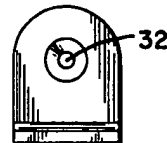


FIG. 14

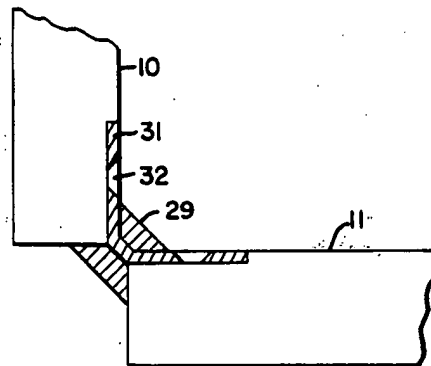


FIG. 11

